



AFP 42

AIR FORCE PLANT 42

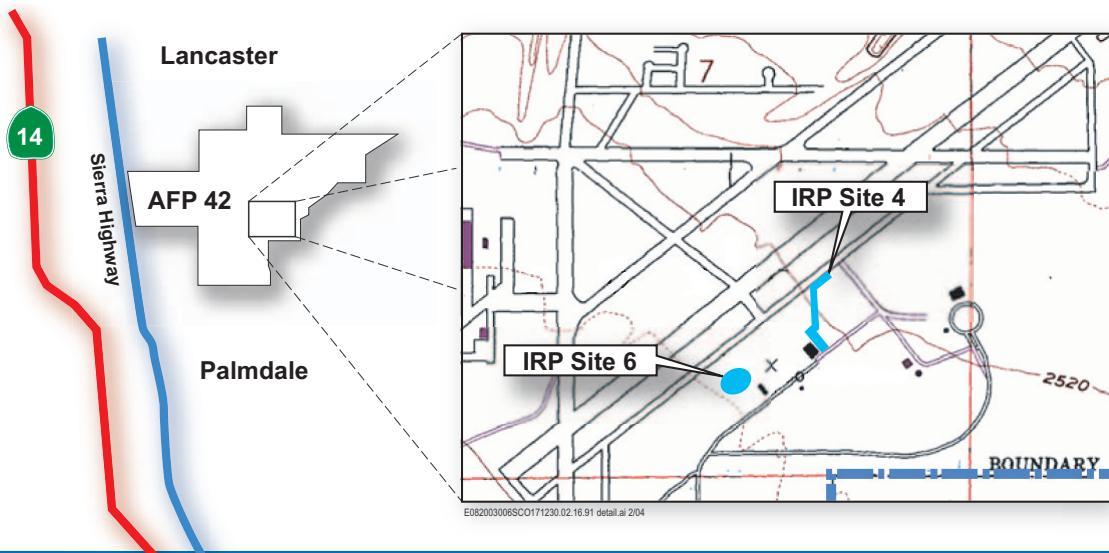
PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Public Review and Comment on Proposed Soil Cleanup at Installation Restoration Program Sites 4 and 6

The Air Force invites the public to review and comment on a proposal for removing contaminated shallow soil at two locations, Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Sites 4 and 6, at Air Force Plant 42 (AFP 42) in Palmdale, California.

The 30-day comment period runs from August 19, 2004 through September 18, 2004. A public meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2004 (see box on page 2 for details).

This fact sheet outlines the cleanup proposal for removing contaminated shallow soil at Sites 4 and 6. These sites are located in the southeast portion of AFP 42 known as the Common Area. The soil removal plan, called the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was prepared by the Air Force and submitted to the two state regulatory agencies who oversee the cleanup of the plant. These two agencies, both part of the California Environmental Protection



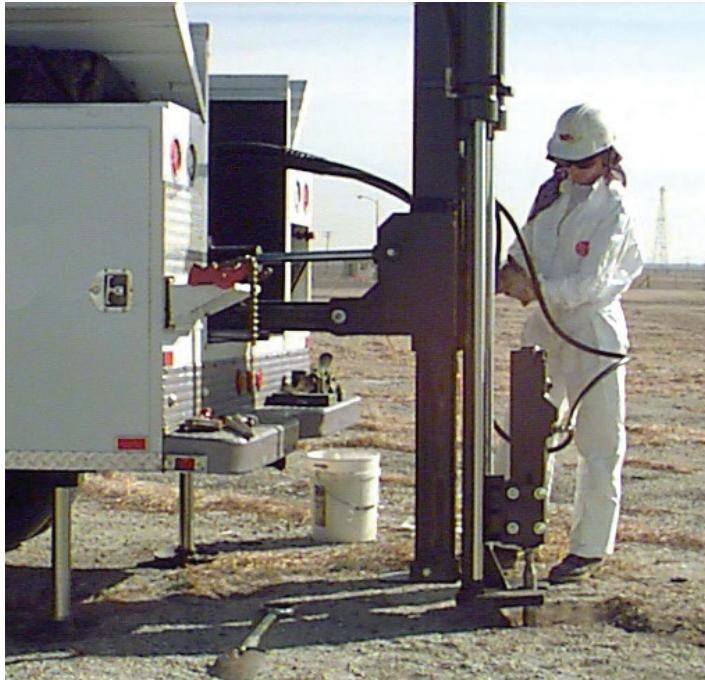
SUMMER 2004

PAM #2004-021

FACT SHEET

Agency (Cal-EPA), are the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Lahontan Region.

The Draft RAW documents the results of the investigations and soil sampling done at the sites, evaluates several cleanup alternatives, and describes the proposed remedy. It also includes a plan for protecting the workers and the environment during the excavation and removal of the soil.



Technologist takes soil samples at an IRP site.

The surface soil at Site 4 contains arsenic, and the shallow soil at Site 6 contains pesticides and chemicals called PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). The soil at these sites needs to be cleaned up to protect industrial workers who may periodically use these areas. In addition to soil excavation, the Draft RAW proposes placing institutional controls at both sites. These would ensure that the sites are restricted to the current industrial use.

The contaminated soils at Sites 4 and 6 are being addressed as part of a removal action under the Air Force's IRP, which includes 28 sites. Sites 4 and 6 are being cleaned up as an interim removal action under the RAW process. The RAW process is being used because Sites 4 and 6 are simple sites where the extent and types of

Public Comment Period and Meeting:

A public comment period is being held from August 19, 2004 through September 18, 2004 on the Draft RAW for IRP Sites 4 and 6 at AFP 42. The upcoming Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (ERAB) meeting will provide the public an opportunity to make oral and written comments on the Draft RAW. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at the Park Plaza in Lancaster. A copy of the Draft RAW document is available for review at the locations listed on the last page of this fact sheet. Written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by September 18, 2004 and submitted to AFP 42 Public Affairs Specialist, Chuck Muston, ASC/ENVR, Bldg 8, 1801 10th Street, Suite 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-7626; fax 937-255-4155, or via e-mail to charles.muston@wpafb.af.mil.

contaminants are well-defined, involving cleanup activities that are easy to implement.

The Aeronautical Systems Center (ASC), located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, will facilitate the cleanup through its Engineering Directorate Environmental Restoration Branch. The ASC branch is responsible for the management of the IRP, which includes identification, evaluation, investigation, cleanup and monitoring of the cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination that occurred prior to 1984 at Air Force plants. ASC and the Air Force are committed to environmental cleanup of these hazardous waste sites. In executing this congressionally mandated program, ASC and the Air Force follow applicable federal and state requirements.

Site 4, Vehicle Wash Rack and Leaking Underground Storage Tank

Site 4 boundaries encompass a shallow drainage swale situated next to the Building 531 vehicle wash rack and a downstream unlined drainage ditch. In the past, a 550-gallon underground waste oil storage tank, formerly located adjacent

to the wash rack, was used to collect waste engine oils, hydraulic fluids, and small quantities of spent solvents from maintenance operations. The tank was previously removed along with the surrounding contaminated soil. Although the tank removal addressed tank-related contamination, it was discovered that from 1954 to 1983, engine dirt, oils, fuels, and detergents from the vehicle wash rack were washed into the drainage ditch, which requires additional cleanup work.

Site 6, Original Fire Training Circle

Site 6 consists of an abandoned, unpaved burn area measuring about 60 feet in diameter. From 1954 to 1959 the site was used for fire department training activities. On a weekly basis during this time, an estimated 1,100 gallons of commingled jet fuels, gasoline, diesel, engine oils, hydraulic fluids, and unspecified solvents were brought to the area, released to the ground, and ignited. In addition, unspecified dry cleaning solvents from a local Palmdale dry cleaner were also reportedly burned at the site. During the operational period of Site 6, the total volume of liquids applied to the site is estimated to be approximately 286,000 gallons.

Cleanup Method for Both Sites

The Air Force investigated Sites 4 and 6 to determine the nature and extent of contamination. After consideration of several cleanup alternatives, the Air Force decided the removal of the remaining impacted soil and appropriate offsite disposal is the preferred cleanup method. The proposed removal action entails excavation of the contaminated soil and transportation to a landfill permitted to accept this type of waste. Samples will be collected to confirm that contaminated soils have been

Sites 4 and 6 Public Involvement Schedule

August 16	Fact Sheet distributed
August 18	Public Notice announces availability of Draft RAW
August 18	Draft RAW issued
August 19 – September 18	30-Day Public Review Period of Draft RAW
September 1	Public Meeting for Draft RAW
September 18	Written Public Comments due to Air Force

removed. The sites will be backfilled with clean soil to restore them to their original condition. Airborne dust will be minimized by applying water during excavation activities and covering piles of excavated materials. No noise impacts to the public or AFP 42 workers are expected. The number of daily truckloads will be limited to avoid impacts to traffic.

After successful excavation of the impacted soils, institutional controls will be implemented to restrict land use to only industrial activities and prevent buildings from being constructed on Site 6.

Regulatory Oversight

All IRP activities at AFP 42 are being conducted with oversight by two Cal-EPA agencies, DTSC and RWQCB. DTSC oversees potential risks posed to human health and the environment, and the RWQCB focuses on the protection of state water resources, including surface water and groundwater. Groundwater at Sites 4 and 6 is not affected.

DTSC evaluated whether there would be any potential environmental impacts resulting from the cleanup actions. They determined that the cleanup would not have a significant effect on human health or the environment. DTSC's finding is documented in a Notice of Exemption (NOE) prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE is available to the public at the Information Repositories listed on the next page.



ERAB members tour AFP 42 IRP sites.

Response to Public Comments

All comments will be considered before a final decision is made on the cleanup method for Sites 4 and 6. The Air Force will address public comments in a formal Responsiveness Summary that will be included the Final RAW, which will be available in the Information Repositories.

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Draft RAW for Sites 4 and 6, along with other published data, studies, and documents relating to the AFP 42 IRP, are available for public review at the Information Repositories.

These repositories are located at:

Palmdale Public Library

700 E. Palmdale Boulevard
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 267-5600

Contact: Diane Hanville

Lancaster Public Library

610 W. Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 948-5029

Contact: Ted Miles

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5337
Contact: Julie Johnson

Tayseer Mahmoud

DTSC Manager
(714) 484-5419

Air Force Contact: If you would like to talk with someone about IRP activities at AFP 42, please call toll-free:

Chuck Muston

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